

REMARKS

Claims 5, 7, 12 and 21 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 5, 7 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants add claim 21. Applicants cancel claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, and 13-20. Support for the claim amendments and new claim is found at least at original claim 2 and paragraph 32 of the published application. No new matter is added. Entry of the amendment is kindly requested. Claims 1-4, 8-10, 13, 15, 18, and 20 are withdrawn.

I. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging page 1 of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed December 22, 2005, as well as all references recited in the IDS filed April 5, 2007. The references recited on page 2 of the IDS filed December 22, 2005 remain outstanding.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the references at page 2 of the IDS filed December 22, 2005.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to priority of Japanese Application No. 2003-184123 filed June 27, 2003, and Japanese Application No. 2003-384572 filed November 14, 2003, as well as receipt of copies of the priority documents.

II. The Supplemental Election/Restriction is Moot

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' election, without traverse, of Group II (claims 5-7 and 11-20) in the reply filed March 19, 2007.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that during an interview with the Applicants on February 16, 2007, the Examiner agreed to an election of multiple SEQ ID NOS. The Examiner now issues a Supplemental Restriction Requirement, alleging that only a single primer of the primer Set B can be examined.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner. As previously asserted, multiple primers are required to practice the invention. However, Applicants' Amendment renders the Supplemental Restriction Requirement moot. Withdrawal of the Supplemental Restriction Requirement is therefore kindly requested.

III. Claims 5, 7 and 12 are Definite Under § 112, Second Paragraph

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Office Action rejects claims 5-7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Office alleges that claims 5-7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 19 are indefinite because it is unclear whether the phrase "a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto", as recited in pending claim 5, is referring to.

To advance prosecution, Applicants herewith amend claims 5, 7 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer and thereby overcome the rejection. The rejection is moot as to claims 6, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 19.

The Examiner further alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the sequence region limitations in claim 12. To advance prosecution, Applicants herewith amend claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants amendment overcomes the rejection.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. Claims 5, 7 and 12 are Novel Under § 102(a)

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Office rejects claims 5, 7, 12, 14, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Drosten *et al.* ("Drosten").

Applicants disagree that Drosten *et al.* anticipates Applicants' claimed invention.

Drosten *et al.* does not disclose Applicants' claimed invention because primer BNlinS, nor any primer relied upon by the Examiner, is the same as Applicants' claim primers. Furthermore, claims 14, 17 and 19 are canceled therefore, the rejection is moot as to these claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §102(a) is kindly requested.

V. The Rejection of Claim 6 Under 35 USC § 103(a) is Moot

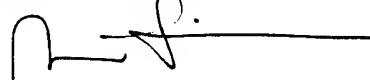
At page 6 of the Office Action, the Office rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Drosten. in view of Notomi *et al.* ("Notomi").

Applicants cancel claim 6 and thus moot the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 18, 2007